

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

News Release

Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Block Island NWR □ John H. Chafee NWR at Pettaquamscutt Cove □ Ninigret NWR □ Sachuest Point NWR □ Trustum Pond NWR

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For Immediate Release

March 22, 2012

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Public Programs by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

These programs are offered FREE to the public by a dedicated and skilled group of volunteers, U.S. Fish & Wildlife staff and local community resources in an effort to increase your enjoyment of the conservation, protection and enhancement of your National Wildlife Refuges in Rhode Island.

April Programs

Reading and Nature

Designed as a story time for pre-school aged youth, this activity is sure to be great fun for the youngest naturalists among us. Join volunteer Helen Johnson to explore nature using the five senses. Then, after reading, take part in other fun activities including finger plays, arts and crafts, movement and more!

Helen Johnson, USFWS Volunteer

Monday, April 2nd, 10:30_{AM} – 11:15_{AM}

Kettle Pond Visitor Center, Charlestown

Nature's Still Life

Join us out from the winters' cold to explore and seek your artistic ability. We will get to know one another as we paint or draw a still life scene provided by the FWS staff of the Sachuest Point NWR Visitor Center. This program is self-led, and no instruction provided – just bring your own bagged lunch and artist materials. All levels and ages welcome.

Brenda Pistek, USFWS Volunteer

Wednesday, April 4th, 10:00_{AM} – 1:00_{PM}

Sachuest Point NWR, Middletown

Earth Explorations Through Film

This week we'll be viewing one of the *Planet Earth* series titled *Pole to Pole*. This film "looks at the planet as a whole and considers the key factors that have shaped its natural history. Without freshwater there is no life on land, while the sun dominates the lives of all animals and plants on Earth and defines their habitats." Popcorn will be provided!

Shannon Griffith, USFWS Volunteer

Friday, April 6th, 6:00_{PM} – 7:30_{PM}

Sachuest Point NWR, Middletown

Reading and Nature

Designed as a story time for pre-school aged youth, this activity is sure to be great fun for the youngest naturalists among us. Join volunteer Helen Johnson to explore nature using the five senses. Then, after reading, take part in other fun activities including finger plays, arts and crafts, movement and more!

Helen Johnson, USFWS Volunteer

Monday, April 9th, 10:30_{AM} – 11:15_{AM}

Kettle Pond Visitor Center, Charlestown

Tea Travels

Life is a journey. Whether it is a brief trip, such as our daily commute, or a bird migration necessary for survival, every living thing is in motion. Join us for this bi-monthly program as we explore the journeys of life. Refreshments will be provided.

Helen Johnson, USFWS Volunteer

Friday, April 13th, 10:30_{AM} – 11:30_{AM}

Kettle Pond Visitor Center, Charlestown

Traversing Through Trustom

It's Friday and everyone is ready to get outside of the house and enjoy the beautiful weather - how about taking a walk at the Trustom Pond NWR? Join Volunteer Sally Hanson for a great wildlife walk around the Refuge. Use some of the skills learned in the first *Birding for Beginners* program and, if you missed the first classes, all of you amateur birders can brush up your skills for the next session of *Birding for Beginners*. For this walk, please meet in the Trustom Pond Contact Station parking lot. The walk begins promptly at 10:00.

Sally Hanson, USFWS Volunteer

Friday, April 13th, 10:00am-12:00pm

Trustom Pond NWR, South Kingstown

The Piping Plovers of Rhode Island

Join the Rhode Island NWR Complex staff to learn about the Piping Plover, the challenges they face, and what you can do to help.

USFWS Staff

Saturday, April 14th, 10:30_{AM} – 12:30_{PM}

Sachuest Point NWR, Middletown

***Birding for Beginners* – Birding by Habitat**

Different habitats attract different avian species. In this program, participants will first learn how to determine which species they might find by analyzing the surrounding habitat. Afterwards we will search for bird species typically found on the woodland habitat of Sachuest Point NWR. Some ID guides and binoculars will be available to those who do not have their own.

Shannon Griffith, USFWS Volunteer

Saturday, April 14th, 2:00_{PM} – 4:00_{PM}

Sachuest Point NWR, Middletown

Reading and Nature

Designed as a story time for pre-school aged youth, this activity is sure to be great fun for the youngest naturalists among us. Join volunteer Helen Johnson to explore nature using the five senses. Then, after reading, take part in other fun activities including finger plays, arts and crafts, movement and more!

Helen Johnson, USFWS Volunteer

Monday, April 16th, 10:30_{AM} – 11:15_{AM}

Kettle Pond Visitor Center, Charlestown

Adventures with a Microscope

Come explore the absolutely amazing small world only visible with a microscope. Join Refuge Volunteer Ronald Schwartz as you examine many specimens from nature, including the possibility of very tiny moving creatures and microscopic fossils! Use this opportunity to learn how to use a microscope, as well as how to make a slide. No prior knowledge is required, just bring your curiosity.

Ron Schwartz, USFWS Volunteer

Tuesday, April 17th, 1:00_{PM} – 3:00_{PM}

Kettle Pond Visitor Center, Charlestown

Nature's Still Life

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Brenda Pistek, USFWS Volunteer

Wednesday, April 18th, 10:00_{AM} – 1:00_{PM}

Sachuest Point NWR, Middletown

Earth Explorations Through Film

This week we'll be viewing one of the *Planet Earth* series titled *Mountains*. This film provides a “tour of our mightiest mountain ranges, starting with the birth of a mountain at one of the lowest places on earth and ending at the summit of Everest. Take in some of the most reclusive creatures of the planet and reveals the secrets to their survival.” Popcorn will be provided!

Shannon Griffith, USFWS Volunteer

Friday, April 20th, 6:00_{PM} – 7:30_{PM}

Sachuest Point NWR, Middletown

Kayaking Made Easy

Ever wonder if you were approaching kayaking properly? Come learn some kayaking basics from Jim Cole, author of “Paddling Connecticut and Rhode Island,” including the correct way to paddle, many tips on how to make paddling easier and more enjoyable (as well as a review of basic paddle strokes and when to use them!). Items covered also include subjects from safety to planning trips and all the required equipment. This program includes an instructional video followed by a question and answer segment.

Jim Cole, USFWS Volunteer & certified canoe and kayak instructor

Saturday, April 21st, 11:00_{AM} – 2:00_{PM}

Kettle Pond Visitor Center, Charlestown

Connecting With Nature Through the Arts

Create your own crafts, using mainly recycled materials, while learning about wildlife. This week we'll be exploring ladybugs!

Shannon Griffith, USFWS Volunteer

Saturday, April 21st, 2:00_{PM} – 4:00_{PM}

Sachuest Point NWR, Middletown

Spring Blooming Natives

When planning a garden, one of the most important things to make sure of is that you are planting native species. Another is to make sure that you have a wide variety of plants that will bloom at different times throughout the year. Join USFWS Volunteer and Master Gardener Jenifer LoVetere to learn all about which Spring blooming *Rhody Natives* to add to your garden this year. This program will include a brief presentation, followed by a walk around the Refuge to get more ideas on which natives to plant at your home.

Jenifer LoVetere, USFWS Volunteer

Sunday, April 22nd, 1:00_{PM} – 3:00_{PM}

Kettle Pond Visitor Center, Charlestown

Tea Travels

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Shannon Griffith, USFWS Volunteer

Friday, April 27th, 10:30_{AM} – 11:30_{AM}

Kettle Pond Visitor Center, Charlestown

Connecting With Nature Through the Arts

Create your own crafts, using mainly recycled materials, while learning about wildlife.

Shannon Griffith and Rachel Schilke, USFWS Volunteers

Saturday, April 28th, 10:00_{AM} – 2:00_{PM}

Kettle Pond Visitor Center, Charlestown

Birding for Beginners – Size and Silhouettes

Sometimes when birding you only catch a glimpse of a silhouette, and then it's gone. During this installment of *Birding for Beginners*, participants will learn how to identify birds according to things like size, wing shape, and flight pattern. Afterwards we will search for bird species typically found on the woodland habitat of Sachuest Point NWR. Some ID guides and binoculars will be available to those who do not have their own.

Shannon Griffith, USFWS Volunteer

Saturday, April 28th, 2:00_{PM} – 4:00_{PM}

Sachuest Point NWR, Middletown

Fabulous Frogs

Frogs are, unfortunately, one of the most unknown about species among the American public. Join Alyssa Grayson, a USFWS Volunteer and member of Frog Watchers, as we get up close and personal with frogs - discussing their life cycle, the challenges they face, and their importance in Rhode Island. This program is family friendly and will include brief walk to the vernal pool to view the wood frogs.

Alyssa Grayson, USFWS Volunteer

Saturday, April 28th, 2:30_{PM} – 4:00_{PM}

Kettle Pond Visitor Center, Charlestown

Reading and Nature

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Helen Johnson, USFWS Volunteer

Monday, April 30th, 10:30_{AM} – 11:15_{AM}

Kettle Pond Visitor Center, Charlestown